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PROGRAM Chet Huntley's Perspective  
on the News

STATION WRC-Radio

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CPYRGHT

CHET HUNTLEY: "It has been reported that when President Johnson the other day announced his choice for head of the Central Intelligence Agency, a number of news correspondents looked at each other and asked, 'Who is Vice-Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr.?'"

"Well, if any of those reporters had had anything to do with the development and testing and perfection of the Polaris missile they would have known Admiral Bill Raborn pretty well.

"The story does that the President had quite a time finding a successor to retiring CIA chief John A. McCone. The Pentagon sent over to the White House a list of names and Mr. McCone supplied another list of recommendations. But the president wasn't quite satisfied, so he asked his associate John W. Macy, Jr., to conduct another hunt for a new director of the CIA. The story continues to the effect that Mr. Macy finally came back with a list, a list containing one name, Vice-Admiral William F. Raborn, Jr., retired. That set the President to asking questions and everywhere the inquiry elicited the most enthusiastic response. Admiral Raborn was the man. Apparently Admiral Raborn received an enthusiastic endorsement from every conceivable quarter, Pentagon, civilians and military commanders alike. From the scientists who had worked under him and with him on the Polaris project, from trade unionists, from industrialists, from Congressmen and Senators.

"In some respects the story of the Polaris missile is best in our whole long list of successes in that new area of science and technology. It had nothing but success. Early in the missile years when newsmen first were getting acquainted with this strange new industry, the name and a few details about the Polaris would be reported from time to time. And sometimes in those early years the information was, well, not quite as accurate as the missile had to be. Admiral Raborn was a stickler. He would be on the telephone within seconds after a broadcast or after a newspaper had his the street and he would raise Cain about any scrap of misinformation concerning his Polaris